

dollars. Much is in the capital improvements budget to rectify the questions of which the students complain. Things were added in the supplemental budget when new money became available, by the action of the Board of Trustees. So the reasons to demand immediate redress are just not present. And if they are present, the demands must come through the duly constituted authority of the Board of Trustees.

Even today Mr. Cole of my staff, when these students came to Annapolis, told them he was willing to meet with them and discuss their problems. They demanded that they meet with me. I was not here. I had no intention of coming back to yield to such an ultimatum.

I want to tell you at this point that I have a great reluctance to close this college. I want to tell you that I have decided that I must, for what I hope will be a very short period of time, close down this institution. This is done with the consent and approval of the Board of Trustees. I have communicated this decision to Dr. Myers. He understands that the need for it is not the desire to make reprisals on the students, but the need to protect the public health, safety and general welfare. Remember that the initial uprisings were triggered by the presence on the campus of outside influences. Very easily these influences could return and it's important that I secure this State property. I hope that it will be possible to open this College again very shortly under a much more salutary atmosphere. I want to read this Executive Proclamation:

“Under the powers vested in me by the Constitution and Public General Laws of Maryland, and under the police powers which apply when the public health, safety and general welfare are threatened, I hereby direct that Bowie State College be closed until I find that conditions there have returned to normal.

“In making this serious decision, I do find as a matter of fact that the student demands, actions, and demonstrations constitute a clear and present danger to the public health, safety, and general welfare.”

Finally, I just want to make a very short observation. The elected officials of this State face the voters every four years. In that four-year period they are entrusted with the public's safety and welfare. I'm certain that they — the public — do not want the Governor of this State, or any other elected official in whom they have reposed this confidence, to yield to unlawful and illegal tactics such as those that the State has seen in the past few days. I'm fully aware that these students have been orderly in their disorder, but I do not find that